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APRIL 26.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M. D., in the Chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

A paper entitled "Materials toward a Natural Classification of the Cyliindrelloid Snails," by Henry A. Pilsbry and E. G. Vanatta, was presented for publication.

Rock Inscriptions in Kauai, Hawaiian Islands.—DR. BENJAMIN SHARP exhibited a specimen of coquina received from Mr. J. K. Farley of Kauai. He had visited Mr. Farley in 1893 with the hope of seeing some rock inscriptions usually covered with sand. An effort to uncover the rocks and expose the inscriptions had then been unsuccessful, although the bed rock had been reached at a depth of six feet. The following letter, accompanied by drawings of the inscriptions, has recently been received:—

KOLOA, KAUAI, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, July 13th, 1897.

Dr. Benj. Sharp,

DEAR SIR:—When you were here in October, 1893, I promised you that I would send you any new information that I might obtain regarding the figures cut into the sandstone¹ ledge at Keonelo, also diagrams of them if I ever saw them again.

On June 15th a native fisherman told me that the drawings were exposed to view at low tide. I went to Keonelo June 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 21st, and send you herewith, in another package, the result of the visits. On the last date I could do nothing but try cutting the rock with a hatchet and an old native stone adze, as a high surf was fast covering the ledge again with sand.

With a hatchet one could, I think, make a four foot figure in about two hours, steady work; with the adze it would take at least six times as long, and use up a number of such tools. Most of the figures look as if they had been cut with a semi-pointed implement like a rounded cold chisel. With the corner of the stone adze I was able to make about the same kind of a cut. A whirling motion that I noticed the waves as they ran off the rock gave to the sand, lodged it in the cuts and this may have worn the cutting into the sort of rounded pockets noticed.

I had a talk, June 17th, with an old native woman named Kauila, who has lived near Keonelo for many years. She said:—"I first saw the pictures when I was about thirteen years old (that was in 1848). I went to see them with my school-teacher and his other scholars and two Roman Catholic priests. My teacher's name was Alexandro, a Frenchman. He was the first Roman

¹The rock is coquina, not sandstone.

Catholic priest in Koloa and built the Roman Catholic Mission buildings. We saw *all* the picture rocks exposed; you have only seen a part of them to-day. The priest went home with me from Keonelo and talked with my father, Walewale, and with my grandfather, and also with a number of other old natives (in those days there were many old people in the land) about the drawings. They had all seen the pictures but had never heard who cut them, or why they were done. The oldest folks said that their fathers and grandfathers had told them that the pictures had always been there."

The sand-hills to the west of Keonelo are said to have been old battle-fields. They were certainly used as burial grounds as we know.²

Fugitives from the Oahu wars are said to have landed at Keonelo and to have been killed and buried in these sand-hills by Koloa natives.

Alexander, in his "Brief History of the Hawaiian People," Chap. 15, says "About the end of the 13th century, Kalaunuiohua, a warlike and ambitious *Moi* (King) of Hawaii, undertook to subdue the whole group . . . he defeated the leading chiefs of Maui, Molokai and Oahu. . . he set sail for Kauai . . . and landed near Koloa, where he was met by Kukona, at the head of the warriors of Kauai, and was totally defeated, his fleet being taken, his army destroyed. It was about this time that a vessel called 'Mamala' in the tradition, arrived at Kahului, in Maui. The captain and crew are said to have been foreigners of light complexion, with bright eyes, who intermarried with the natives and became progenitors of a light colored stock. As there were no Europeans in the Pacific Ocean in the 13th century, it is most probable, as Judge Fornander has suggested, that these foreigners were the crew of some Japanese junk, driven out of its course by a typhoon, and drifted to these shores, as has twice happened in recent times. Also, about the year 1527-28, Spaniards, a man and his sister, were saved from a wreck on Hawaii . . . they intermarried with the natives and became the progenitors of certain well-known families of chiefs, such as that of Kaikeowa, former Governor of Kauai."

Jarvis, in his history of the islands, says, "Cook found in the possession of the natives of Kauai two pieces of iron, one a portion of a hoop, and the other appeared to be part of the blade of a broadsword." "The knowledge and use of iron was generally known."

Kaui's story would take us back to the early part of the 17th century, without a tradition of the workers.

The cross and the flag (?)³ make me think that foreigners may have had a hand in the work, or may have given the natives, if they did the work, a knowledge of those emblems. Were it not for them one might think that the pictures were done by a party of

² We obtained, when with Mr. Farley, a number of bones and one complete skeleton.

³ Referring to the drawing sent with the letter.

North-west Indians, who could, I believe, easily, in their large canoes, sail or drift down to the islands with the currents, in a shorter time than a Japanese junk could. One can usually see half a dozen N. W. drift logs on the beach at Keonelo. On the beaches of Niihau, some fifty miles away, hundreds of logs and Red Wood posts have been picked up a few months after freshets on the Pacific coast of the U. S. and B. C., had washed out the logging dams of the saw mills.

The last figure on my diagram, I take it, was made to represent a woman in parturition.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, I have seen Dr. Emerson of this place. He tells me that eight or nine years ago, he saw on the beach at Honaunau, Kona, Hawaii, somewhat similar drawings, cut into lava rock. Honaunau is not far from Keei, the place at which the Spanish man and woman are said to have landed in about 1527-28. The natives of Hawaii know nothing of the workers. Dr. Emerson says: Kackeoewa came from a Hawaiian family. My "cross" may be a totem.

Mr. Wm. W. Jefferis was appointed Curator of the William S. Vaux Collections for the current year.

The following were appointed the Committee on the Hayden Memorial Award for 1898:—Messrs Persifor Frazer, Angelo Heilprin, Theodore D. Rand, Benjamin Smith Lyman, and Jos. P. Lesley.

The following were ordered to be printed:—